City of San Diego
Governmental Relations Department

Water Security

Lead Department: Water Department
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Background:

The San Diego Water Department services 1.2 million customers, including the largest concentration of military bases in the United States. It is one of the ten largest water suppliers in the nation – providing 206 MGD per day. By the year 2030, the City's population and economic growth is projected to increase water demands by about 55 million gallons a day (MGD) or 25 percent over 2002 levels.

The City presently imports approximately 90% of its water supply from northern California and the Colorado River. Local reservoirs owned and operated by the City supply about 10 to 15 percent of need. The water distribution system includes:

- 3,460 miles of pipeline
- 267,000 metered service connections
- Nine reservoirs with a total capacity of 415,936 acre feet
- Three water treatment plants with a total capacity of nearly 300 MGD

A 2002 confidential threat assessment study resulted in a security plan requiring $16 million in capital expenditures over three years, and $1 million in annual operating expenses. This proposal would improve:

- **Detection**: Monitor substance introductions and video-monitor facilities
- **Delay:** Install physical barriers to prevent unauthorized access
- **Response**: Establish liaisons with enforcement authorities and develop department emergency response plans
- **Documentation**: Document the events as they occur and analyze for improvements to prevent reoccurrence

State Strategies

- Pursue Proposition 50 funds: $50 million are earmarked for utility system security, for award by the Water Quality Control Board.
    - City will comment on Department of Water Resources grant criteria
    - January/February workshops
    - June: Application deadline
    - Summer, 2004: Grant Awards

Federal Strategies

- Seek funding through grant opportunities within the Department of Homeland Security or other appropriate grant programs.